



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 3/22/2005

**GAIN Report Number:** TH5029

## Thailand

### Grain and Feed

### Weekly Rice Price Update

2005

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**Report Highlights:**

Export prices remained under upward pressure due to a tighter supply situation.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Bangkok [TH1]  
[TH]

**Indicative Prices (Week Ending Mar. 21):**

| Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.) |                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |             |      |
|---|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|------|
|   | Exporter Observations |     |     |     |     |     |     | Period Avg. |      |
|   | #1                    | #2  | #3  | #4  | #5  | #6  | #7  | CUR.        | PRV. |
| F WR 100 B  | 448                   | 440 | 435 | 456 | 460 | 433 | 410 | 440         | 441  |
| WR 100 B  | 301                   | 296 | 301 | 300 | 303 | 300 | 300 | 300         | 300  |
| PB 5%   | 289                   | 299 | 297 | 298 | 301 | 301 | 285 | 296         | 295  |
| WR 5%   | 296                   | 290 | 296 | 295 | 299 | 295 | 295 | 295         | 295  |
| WR 10%  | 294                   | 285 | 288 | 292 | 295 | 292 | 290 | 291         | 290  |
| WR 15%  | 283                   | 278 | 283 | 289 | 290 | 286 | 285 | 285         | 285  |
| WR 25%  | 270                   | 267 | 275 | 287 | 285 | 270 | 280 | 276         | 274  |
| WR 35%  | 267                   | 263 | -   | 284 | 282 | 268 | 275 | 273         | 272  |
| A 1 SUP   | 233                   | 232 | -   | 233 | 230 | 232 | 232 | 232         | 233  |
| A 1 SPEC  | 231                   | 231 | -   | 232 | 228 | -   | 230 | 230         | 232  |
| Source: Average actual prices received from exporters               |                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |             |      |

**Market Tone**

Export prices for most grades of rice remained steady at high levels. The domestic supply remained tight despite less aggressive loading activities on the shipments to African destinations, especially 100% grade parboiled rice to Benin and Nigeria, and 5% grade white rice to Iraq. Supplies of paddy for parboiled rice production were reportedly limited, as the government intervention program continued to stockpile paddy from the market. According to the recent meeting of the Rice Policy Committee, the main paddy crop's intervention program (starting Nov. 1, 2004) was extended again, from the end of March to April 30, 2005, as compared with March 15 last year. This will increase upward pressure on prices. Trade sources do not expect prices to be lower than the previous year's average price levels, no matter when the government releases stocks due to the tight supply situation.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

| WEEK<br>ENDING | QUANTITY | 4-WK AVG | YEAR TO<br>DATE | YEAR AGO |
|----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|
|                | (MT)     | (MT)     | (TMT)           | (TMT)    |
| JAN 30         | 134,431  | 136,153  | 548             | 362      |
| FEB 6          | 137,042  | 140,136  | 685             | 477      |
| FEB 13         | 94,079   | 121,399  | 779             | 594      |
| FEB 20         | 118,514  | 121,016  | 897             | 729      |
| FEB 27         | 81,374   | 107,752  | 979             | 878      |
| MAR 6          | 73,669   | 91,909   | 1,052           | 991      |
| MAR 13         | 88,005   | 90,391   | 1,140           | 1,121    |
| MAR 20         | 95,458   | 84,627   | 1,236           | 1,265    |

*Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.*

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Mar. 14-20, 2005 totaled 95,458 tons, up 7,452 tons from the previous week's total and up 10,831 tons from the four-week moving average of 84,627 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Mar. 20, 2005 amounted to 1,235,797 tons, as compared with 1,264,513 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2005, amounted to 1,327,792 tons, up 6.3 percent from 1,249,413 tons in the previous year.

### Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Feb. 28 – Mar. 4, Mar. 7-11, and Mar. 14-18, 2005 are as follows:

| Movement (MT)      | Feb. 28 – Mar. 4 | Mar. 7-11 | Mar. 14-18 |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| weekly sales       | 32,632           | 51,407    | 138,069    |
| 4 week sum         | 309,358          | 265,022   | 305,855    |
| 4 week mov. avg.   | 77,340           | 66,256    | 76,464     |
| Total weekly sales | 1,035,187        | 1,086,594 | 1,224,663  |

End of Report.